Drought conditions in Madhya Pradesh

1389. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported starvation deaths in drought-stricken Madhya Pradesh, especially in Sarguja district, as reported in the Times of India dated 16th March, 1992 ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any independent inquiries into the drought situation and the reported starvation deaths, if so, the deaths and outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the independent inquiries made by the Central Government, the reports on Starvation Deaths in Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh have not been substantiated.

Famine in Gujarat

1390. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts, Talukas and villages and total population and cattle affected by scarcity famine condition in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have offered any grant, asistance to Gujarat in view of widespread and acute famine ;

(c) whether the relief work has started all over the State and cattle relief, fodder centres have been opened ;

(d) whether paucity of funds are affecting adversely relief operations; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is facing acute shortage of drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) According to information received from the Govt, of Gujarat, 10988 villages in 16 districts are presently affected by drought conditions. The hujnan population and the cattle heads affected by the drought - conditions are about 200.00 lakh and 66.00 lakh respectively.

(b) A Central Team recently visited the drought affected areas of Gujarat to assess the situation. Additional central assistance to the State for drought relief measures will be considered on receipt of the report of the Central Team.

(c) Yes, Sir, as per report from the State Government.

(d) No such report has been received.

(e) According to assessment made by the State Government, 5927 villages and 74 towns and cities would face shortage of drinking water in the wake of present drought conditions.

Arrest of General Managers, D.M.S.

1391. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI GURWUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager of the Delhi Milk Scheme was arrested for taking bribe from a private party; if so, the amount of bribe involved and what benefits he had promised to give to other party ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the General Manager is still working on" his post, if so, what are the reasons that he has not been suspended so far; and

(c) what action Government have taken/ propose to take to root out corruption from DMS which is the principal agency for supplying milk in the capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against the former General Manager of the' D.M.S. on the allegation of demanding and accepting a bridge of Rs. 2 lakhs from the representative of the Co-operative Societies to amend/withdraw his order raising the amount of security deposit from the amount equal to 6 days' supplies to the amount equal to days' supplies in respect of milk supplied by them.

(b) No, Sir. The former General Manager, DMS has been placed under suspension.

(c) Complaints of irregularities or mal-practices coming to notice are looked into and remedial action as may be appropriate is taken.

Impurity of foodgrains supplied through P.D.S.

@ 1392. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 39 to 49 per cent impurities in the food grains supplied through PDS are officially allowed; and

(b) If so, .what are the reasons for allowing such a large extent of impurities in the food, making them sub-standard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Such an apprehension is based on erroneous ap-preciation of the technical specifications which are iprescribed in consultation with the State: Governments after taking into consideration the agricultural practices and agroclimatic conditions in the country.

Only such foodgrains which are fit for human consumption and conform to PFA Standards, are issued by the FCI to Statu Governments or their agencies for distribution through PDS.

©Previously: Unstarred Question 385, transfercd from the'30th April, 1992.

सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत कम गेहूं दिया जाना

1393. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**

डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 15 अप्रैल, 1992 को "फाइनेंशियल एक्सप्रेस" में डिफाल्टर्स में गैट लैस व्हीट अन्डर पी० डी० एस" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा अधिक उत्पादक राज्यों से गेहूं की खरीद कम होने के कारण राज्यों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत दिए जाने वाले गेहूं एवं खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा घटा देने पर विचार किया जा रहा है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं और सरकार द्वारा समय रहते इन राज्यों से समर्थन मूल्य पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में गेहूं खरीदने के लिए आवश्यक प्रोत्साहनों की घोषणा करने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) राज्यों/संघ शासित प्रदेशों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए गेहूं और चावल के आबंटन विभिन्न तथ्यों के आधार पर प्रत्येक मास किए जाते हैं जिसमें केन्द्रीय पूल में स्टाक की उपलब्धता प्रमुख आधार है। तत्काल भुगतान करने आदि जैसी सामान्य सुविधाओं के अलावा, सरकार ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम और राज्यों की वसूली एजेंसियों को पहली अप्रैल, 1992 से 31 मई, 1992 की अवधि के दौरान गेहूं की बिक्री करने पर किसानों को अदा किए जाने वाले गेहूं के 250

पूर्वतः अतारांकित प्रश्न 396, 30 अप्रैल, 1992 से स्थानांतरित ।